

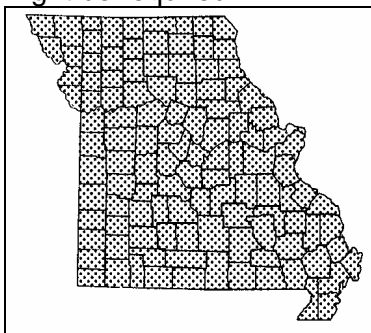
## Hickory

*Carya* spp.

*Trees of Missouri* by Settergren and McDermott lists seven species of hickory in Missouri, not including pecan. In the commercial trade, however, all hickory lumber is lumped together and no attempt is made to identify the species. The seven species are: shagbark (*C. ovata* (Mill.) K. Koch), shellbark (*C. laciniosa* (Michx. f.) Land.), mockernut (*C. tomentosa* Nutt.), pignut (*C. glabra* (Mill.) Sweet), black (*C. texana* Buckl.), bitternut (*C. cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch) and water (*C. aquatica* (Michx. f.) Nutt.). Hickories grow on all types of soils and sites throughout Missouri and are among our most common trees. Hickory probably made up about ten percent of the original oak-hickory forest type in Missouri.

The sapwood is generally white to pale brown; the heartwood is pale brown to brown or reddish brown. The bark varies by species, from the shaggy plates of shagbark and shellbark to the shallowly fissured ridges of mockernut and black to the smooth gray bark of young bitternut and pignut. The growth rings are usually distinct and the wood is ring porous. The wood is heavy, hard, elastic and strong. It machines and turns well, and also steam bends well. The wood is not durable.

Hickory is one of our most common woods in everyday use. It is the preferred material for handles of axes, picks, hammers, hatchets and ladder rungs. Where impact strength is a consideration, hickory is often used. It has been used in athletic equipment such as skis and as runners on sleds. In days of wooden wagons, hickory was used for the hub, rims and spokes of the wheels. It is used in wooden pallets and blocking. Better grades are used in furniture and for wall paneling. One of the most important uses for hickory is in the charcoal industry where hickory smoke flavor is desirable. Hickory sawdust is used in packing houses to smoke meats. Because of its hardness, it is not commonly used in home shops, except when its highly regarded strength might be required.



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